

Department of Public Works and Transportation

DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES



The Recyclemobile at the Poolesville Day event.

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2000



Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

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OVERVIEW

Tonnage at a Glance

The following table shows key material flows during the current month, during the fiscal years to date (FY Total), and during the current calendar month in the two prior fiscal years. (County fiscal year 2001 began July 1, 2000.)

FACILITY	Sept FY 01	FY 01 Total	Sept FY 00	Sept FY 99
Materials Recycling Facility ⁽¹⁾	6,438 tons	18,514 tons	5,328 tons	4,890 tons
Brunswick Landfill Facility ⁽⁴⁾	10,663 tons	37,462 tons	12,078 tons	13,539 tons
American Ash Recycling ⁽²⁾	2,768 tons	8,499 tons	3,164 tons	N/A
Resource Recovery Facility ⁽³⁾	40,092 tons	132,721 tons	39,730 tons	35,567 tons
Yard Trim Compost Facility	3,226 tons	11,021 tons	4,526 tons	2,216 tons

⁽¹⁾For FY00, MRF tons reported are outgoing. For previous years, incoming was reported.

⁽²⁾Tons shipped out to ash recycling facility during the indicated period. All tons so shipped are recycled.

⁽³⁾RRF tonnage refers to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here. For FY00, these tonnages are preliminary, with adjustments made in the December and June monthly reports.

⁽⁴⁾This category only addresses waste sent to the landfill for disposal. It does not include rubble that is recycled at Clean Rock or other locations.

Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation – Consolidated mass tracking spreadsheets for FY00 tonnage review and drafted most of the “Municipal Solid Waste Materials Flow Review and Recycling Rate Report for Fiscal Year 2000”. Continued work on Unit Costs analysis. Prepared quarterly briefings on both. Handled approximately 50 additional ratepayer calls requiring senior staff follow-up. Began preparing FY02-FY07 budget spreadsheets. Updated DSWS Program Measures with FY00 “actuals”. Continued field work with variable rate tag technology. Reviewed and approved proposal for evaluating semi-automated collection. Received, tabulated and analyzed results of September 18 – 22 random sampling mission to characterize refuse set-outs. Made presentation at COG on variable rate considerations. Drafted and issued Task Order for Financial Advisor work to assess credit implications of alternate means of revenue collection under variable rate options. Prepared for October 2 Variable Rate Task Force Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES

Facilities Implementation Group (FIG) – FIG will meet on October 17 at 7:30 p.m. Before the meeting, there will be a tour of the Chiswell farm at 6:30 p.m.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) – SWAC met Tuesday, September 12, with nine SWAC members, eight County Staff and two guests in attendance. Two presentations were made: Mr. Richard Hawes, Director of the Department of Facilities Management for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) briefed the committee on School Recycling at the MCPS, and Mr. Al Roshdieh, Chief of Operations and Maintenance, Division of Facilities and Services (DFS) in the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) briefed the committee on DFS recycling.

COLLECTIONS

Refuse – Refuse collections went as scheduled with no disruptions to service. We continue to receive calls from residents outside our collection district requesting information for inclusion into our system. Since this has become a fairly frequent request, we are working on a response package to handle these types of requests.

Recycling – Now that mixed paper has been implemented countywide, we are working on ways to increase the participation and capture rate.

Contractor Performance – During the month of September, there were 25 complaints not resolved by the contractors. The County corrected all 25 issues and assessed the appropriate fines. The number of complaints received in September 2000 totaled 860. This represents a 34.6% increase from September 1999, which had 639 complaints. Each collection contractor is experiencing serious difficulty in retaining employees in the current job market. The resulting employee turnover rate has decreased the number of experienced employees and caused a corresponding increase in collection errors.

Enforcement Actions – In September, 21 citations were issued in the amount of \$10,600.00 for violations of the County Solid Waste Laws: 12 citations were for collecting solid waste before 7:00am in the amount of \$6,250.00, 6 citations were issued for unlicensed collection vehicles in the amount of \$3,250.00, 2 citations were issued for not having a suitable tight-fitting cover in place in the amount of \$1,000.00, and 1 citation was issued for leaving a collection vehicle unattended in the amount of \$100.00. Twelve NOV's were written for leaking containers. One NOV was written for each of the following: leaving a collection vehicle unattended, collecting without a collector's license, and the accumulation of solid waste.

Customer Service – In September, there were 7,697 incoming calls and 1,578 recycle bins were delivered.

Volunteer Activities – During September, the Master Recycler/Composter Program Volunteers contributed 131.3/4 hours of service and reached approximately 4,900 residents. Volunteer activities included 2 Household Hazardous Waste collections, 1 computer drop off at Shady Grove, Poolesville Day, the Latino Festival, Oktoberfest in Germantown, a Labor Day Parade and the Olde Town Gaithersburg Festival.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Drop-off Programs – The County is preparing advertisements promoting drop-offs at the Transfer Station that will appear in future editions of the Gazette.

A computer recycling event was held on September 17. Approximately 6.6 tons of computers and computer-related equipment were received.

Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities – Display ads for Composting and Compost Bins continue to run in the Gazette and Journal Newspapers. In addition, a new ad will start running promoting the use of the website for various source reduction activities. Residents (and other interested parties) calling for printed literature are directed toward the website immediately, and approximately 50% of callers are as happy or happier to go on-line for the information provided, saving the cost of printing and mailing materials.

Environmental gardening column (Green Man) with Gazette Newspapers continues; September feature, "Honey, I Shrunk the Lawn!" is also viewable on-line: <http://lawn.askdep.com>.

Developing a series of composting workshops with American Plant Food Company for their two locations on River Road; American Plant Food would also like to help sell/distribute compost bins in conjunction with the County program.

Vermilab training classes have been scheduled for public and private schools throughout the County. New program participants will use an improved version of the worm bins and will report the number of pounds of food scraps composted to the new Vermilab website. Seven new schools have been supplied with the Worm Factories; by the beginning of winter, it is expected that approximately 50 additional classrooms and 1,200 students will be working on compost education projects.

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – About 25 citizens who could not attend the next scheduled event came to the Transfer Station to drop off household hazardous waste in September. HHW events were held at the Transfer Station and in Germantown. There were 912 and 265 participants, respectively, at the Transfer Station and Germantown Upcounty Services Center events.

Small Quantity Generator (Ecowise) Program – One Ecowise event was held in September; 11 companies attended.

AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Resource Recovery Facility: CEM Tracking of RRF Operations - In September, the Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEM) indicated that units 1 and 3 were operating continuously until September 10. Unit 1 was brought offline at 7 p.m. on September 10 because of some broken grates. Repairs were completed within 24 hours, and the unit was brought online at about 7 p.m. on September 11. Units 1 and 3 were operating until September 13 when unit 2 was also brought online at about 7 p.m. for handling increased waste received at the facility. All three units were operating until September 14 when unit 3 was brought offline at 11 p.m. Thereafter, units 1 and 2 continued to operate until September 24. Unit 1 was brought offline at 7 p.m. on September 24 because of some broken grates, and only unit 2 was operating for the next 19 hours. Repairs were completed within 19 hours and unit 1 was brought back online again at about 2 p.m. on September 25. Thereafter, units 1 and 2 were operating until the end of the month. There were no equipment malfunctions (other than the broken grate problems) that affected unit operations or stack emissions.

No "Code Red" days were forecast in September.

The set of ten CEM CD-ROMs was updated to include CEM data up to August 31, 2000. Copies of the CD-ROM are placed in the Rockville and Poolesville libraries and distributed to DSWS staff and citizen committees, including SWAC and FIG. The new set of ten CD-ROMs containing stack emissions data from 15 stack tests were distributed to SWAC and the FIG Air Quality Subcommittee.

Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility: Leachate Evaporation Technology – In September, the Leachate Thermal Treatment System (LTTS) operated for 25 days, evaporating, on the average, eight gallons per minute. NEA's consultant is still reviewing the BENTECH contract. BENTECH submitted additional information on the firm's efforts to implement a facility alternative to the electrical engines such as a facility to upgrade the landfill gas to pipeline quality gas. DSWS is planning to have a meeting with BENTECH in October.

Yard Trim Composting Facility: Consent Agreement Evaluation – DSWS and MES completed the review of ENSR's draft report for the water quality-sampling program that was concluded in June. No comments were received from FIG. The report will be finalized and submitted to the Maryland Department of Environment by the end of September.

Facilities Implementation Group (FIG) Air Quality Subcommittee – Clean Air Engineering (CAE) has confirmed that the firm will be providing electronic copies of the stack test data by the first week of October. After receiving the data from CAE, ENSR

will develop emission factors for the update of the RRF Health Risk Assessment. This information will be submitted to the committee for review in October.

Contractual Work – ENSR submitted a brief scope of work on the Epidemiological Study for review by DSWS. After DSWS review, this document will be submitted to the FIG Air Quality Subcommittee in October. The firm has indicated that a draft report on this topic would be made available to the County by November 2000.

RECYCLING

Public Outreach – Major findings from the survey to assess the effectiveness of the division's outreach on recycling were very positive. New mixed paper recycling advertisements are being developed for print in October. Staff made a presentation to the Recycling and Solid Waste Managers across Maryland about the County's commercial recycling program. Work is underway on the major outreach piece, the recycling calendar for 2001. Also, DSWS has been working closely with the County's Division of Facilities and Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, several property management companies, and others to improve recycling awareness and activity. Staff is involved in many activities and events in the community to increase recycling awareness.

Planning and preparations are underway for America Recycles Day events and activities. The open house at the Recycling Center will be held on Sunday, November 19.

The 50% recycling campaign is beginning again in print advertisements. The new recycling awareness campaign is under development and is scheduled to begin in December.

The web site address for the County's recycling program is www.MCRecycles.org. Other related web site addresses for specific County recycling programs are: www.SORRT.org and www.TRRAC.org. Improvements and additions to these sites are being made and updates will be provided on a continual basis.

Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction – Staff continued to deliver customized service to the business sector. Staff participated in several community events. Staff provided additional training for the Division of Facilities and Services' Recycling Coordinators who missed the earlier training sessions. Staff conducted training for MCPS recycling coordinators, principals, and other staff members during a series of cluster meetings. Staff prepared materials and created a presentation specifically geared to the specific needs of MCPS. Attendance by MCPS employees has been disappointingly low. Staff continues working with the private schools.

Multi-Family Recycling – Staff continued to perform on-site evaluations of recycling programs, and working with property managers and residents to provide assistance and support. Staff continued to assist properties that were not in compliance with the County's regulation. The division also continued to solicit properties to participate in

the bin effectiveness study. Annual reports have been received by the division; properties that have not submitted annual reports have been mailed another reminder by staff.

Mixed Paper Recycling – The follow-up telephone contact with residents approximately two weeks after their new service began continued. This contact was designed to be a short, friendly phone call to ask people about their experience with the new mixed paper recycling program, and to provide assistance and answers. Response from residents continued to be overwhelmingly positive. Since mixed paper is now collected in all areas, the mixed paper drop-off sites have been phased out. An insert in the Washington Post with mixed paper information is under development. Staff has begun looking at the amounts of mixed paper being recycled in each area, in the effort to troubleshoot and provide additional education to those low performance areas.

PILOT PROGRAMS

Mixed Paper Pilot – We have started a pilot using rolling carts which will attempt to increase levels of mixed paper recycling by providing a rolling container to make it easier for residents to store and bring mixed paper to the curb.

Tubgrinding Pilot - Tubgrinding of the material began on August 22, 2000 and by the end of September 5, 205 yards have been processed with 5,226 yards to be processed.

Ash Recycling Pilot – The ash-recycling pilot continues. Improved rail movements by CSX have improved container handling for recycling.

AAR and the MDE Air and Radiation Management Administration notified DSWS that four small, low-level radioactive devices were found in scrap metal separated from ash that was processed at the AAR facility in York, PA. The devices were discovered when some of the ferrous metals from the ash processing were sent to scrap iron dealers for recycling.

Representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of the Environment, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), assessed the situation and indicated there was no risk to public health from the devices. Each device was approximately one-quarter inch in diameter and three-and-a-half inches long, with approximately 2 millicuries of Cesium 137 in its tip. The rods are thought to be 30 to 50 years old and are characteristic of those used in equipment for industrial application such as measuring the level of materials in tanks and calibrating radiation detection meters. The devices were properly containerized and delivered to an approved disposal site.

It is highly unlikely that the contaminated ash came from the County's RRF. We employ a sensitive radiation detection system to scan all incoming waste at the Transfer Station before it is transported to the RRF. Only waste that comes from the Transfer Station is

processed at the RRF. The other source of ash that is received at the AAR facility has no detection devices in its waste handling system.

Regardless of the likelihood that the devices came from the other source of ash and not from the RRF, DSWs will be installing additional radiation detection devices at the Transfer Station and new detectors at the RRF.

Recycling Collection Pilots - Two neighborhoods have started a wheeled cart toter pilot program with a third neighborhood to start soon. We also are working on a plan to use blue plastic bags for recycling in a 157-unit townhouse community.

FACILITY ACTIVITIES

Resource Recovery Facility – The facility primarily operated with two units throughout the month. Unit load was managed near 100 percent. Unit 1 was removed from service twice in the month to repair broken grate bars. Unit 2 was brought on line and unit 3 was removed from service to clean outlet vanes of the scrubber.

No turbine outages were experienced during the month.

On September 5 and 6, PEPCO declared Minimum Generation status, and the Facility lowered its output accordingly. Approximately 71-megawatt hours were lost during the period.

There were no reportable air or water quality excursions. The following reports were submitted:

- August 2000 Water Supply report to Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Protocol for the October stack testing was submitted to MDE.
- MDE took radiological readings with a hand-held analyzer and grab samples (swipes) in and around the ash discharger and conveyor areas. All the readings and the swipe sample results indicated background levels.
- Air emission data CD-ROMs were updated.

Ogden's regional environmental engineer reviewed operations data.

Tours were conducted on the 13th, 15th, 25th, 26th, and 29th. Approximately 85 visitors toured the facility, including representatives from the Smithsonian, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea and the Soviet Union.

Materials Recovery Facility – Approximately 1,447 tons of commingled material and 4,991 tons of mixed paper were shipped out after processing.

Bids for new processing equipment were received and are being evaluated. Proposals to update the information displays at the facility were received. The new forklift arrived. Bids for loading dock levelers were received.

Oaks Landfill – Work continues on the final punch list items for the Phase II closure construction.

Cherry Hill Construction, the contractor for the Phase I closure construction (about 68 acres on the western side of the landfill) continues to place subbase and liner bedding layer for the approximately 25 acres that remain to be capped. Cherry Hill is also continuing work on several drainage structures. Construction is approximately 70% complete.

Transfer Station – During September, Ogden Martin shipped via rail 46,499 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the Resource Recovery Facility, 3,023 tons more than shipped in September 1999.

Ogden Martin continued with the inspection and repair of intermodal waste containers.

Litter was collected by MES along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

A contractor is updating the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Transfer Station and the Recycling Center.

The contractor for the Nonprocessable Waste Facility continued working on punch list items. The facility was put into use in September.

Recaulking of the concrete panels on the buildings continues.

Atlantic Builders Group, Inc. continued work on the Transfer Station master plan improvements including the relocation of the Household Hazardous Waste storage area, the scrap metal area, utilities to serve a trailer office and new roads and paving.

The switch gear unit for the standby generator was installed and some work was performed on the generator. The County is awaiting the delivery of a wiring trough to complete work on this backup system.

Ogden continued work on a modification to the area behind the feed chute to compactor #3 that will consist of steel plates to help prevent waste from spilling behind it.

Ogden replaced lights over the pit area.

Site 2 Landfill Properties – Three responses to the Task Order to assess and renovate the Chiswell Farm were received September 15. The responses were reviewed and the Division identified one firm's response as best. The Office of Procurement is reviewing the selection and the procurement process and is expected to confirm the Division's selection in early October. Mowing continued as needed.

Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan – On the agenda of the next FIG meeting will be a discussion of a berm construction between the Compost Facility and the Gothic Barn called for by the Plan. There will also be a presentation on the next Master Plan budget from the FIG budget subcommittee.

Yard Trim Compost Facility – Three thousand two hundred and twenty-six (3,226) tons of grass and no leaves were received at Dickerson for composting. Four thousand eight hundred and eighty-six (4,886) yards of Leafgro were sold in bulk.

Bagging Operations – In September, 14,050 bags of Leafgro were produced at the Compost Facility and 16,250 bags were shipped to distributors. No bags of Leafgro were shipped to distributors from the Transfer Station.

Linden Farm Renovations – The project has been completed. Under the signed bagging agreement, the County is to renovate the Feed Barn and Bank Barn by June 2001. The County is working with Maryland Environmental Services (MES) to put out an RFP to select a contractor to do the work.

Phase I of the plantings to screen the Compost Facility from the Linden Farm is complete. C & C Farms has designed Phase II of the plantings to be done after the berm issue is resolved.

Out-of-County Haul

Brunswick County, Virginia – During the month of September, about 6,992 tons of ash residue and 3,671 tons of nonprocessable waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. Landfill in Brunswick County, VA. No rubble was recycled in September because requirements for the acceptance of rubble material at recycling facilities have become more stringent. The Transfer Station did not receive any clean separate loads of concrete, asphalt, dirt/rock suitable for recycling. Unfortunately, much of this material is contaminated with wood waste, lumber or trash, and it requires too much labor to clean it up for rubble recycling. The County is looking for other opportunities to manage these materials.

York, Pennsylvania – During the month of September, 2,768 tons of ash residue (back hauled by rail from the RRF) were shipped from the Transfer Station to American Ash Recycling in York, PA to be recycled into aggregate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Important Telephone Numbers

General information on solid waste- 240/777-6400

Customer Service- 240/777-6410

Transfer Station- 301/840-2370

Materials Recovery Facility- 301/417-1447- Maryland Environmental Service

Resource Recovery Facility- 301/349-5685 County Office
301/916-3031 Ogden Martin Systems of Montgomery

Yard Trim Compost Facility- 301/428-8185

Internet for DSWS - www.MCRecycles.org

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

<i>TOPIC OR FACILITY</i>	
Current Recycling Rate in Montgomery County	36%
Recycling Goal by 2000	50%
New Recycling Programs Scheduled for FY 01	Countywide completion in August 2000 of Residential Mixed Paper Collection
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)	Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 tpd on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr).
Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF)	Operations Limited to Receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY00 tons received- 58,602
# Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors	82,599
# Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection	195,405
Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc.	June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AAR	American Ash Recycling, Inc.
APC	Air Pollution Control
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
BFI	Browning Ferris Industries
CEM	Continuous Emissions Monitoring
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
CSX	Chesapeake Transportation Systems
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DFS	Division of Facilities and Services
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIG	Facilities Implementation Group
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
IFB	Invitation For Bid
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
LTTS	Leachate Thermal Treatment System
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
mg/l	milligrams per liter
MNCPPC	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MWh	Mega Watt hours
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NTP	Notice to Proceed
OLAC	Oaks Landfill Advisory Commission
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
PSA	Public Service Announcement
ROL	Reduced Operating Level
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SCA	Sugarloaf Citizens Association
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TCLP	Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure
TPD	Tons Per Day
T.R.R.A.C.	Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums
WM	Waste Management
YTCF	Yard Trim Composting Facility